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6. The following American ichthyologists prefer that the Commission rule that the name *Notropis* be treated as being of the feminine gender:—

W. I. Follett
Harry W. Freeman
David G. Frey
Shelby D. Gerking
Carl L. Hubbs
Frank T. Knapp
William Ralph Taylor

**OBJECTION TO THE BAILEY/MILLER PROPOSAL THAT THE GENERIC NAME
"NOTROPIS" RAFINESQUE, 1818 (CLASS OSTEICHTHYES) SHOULD BE TREATED
AS BEING OF THE MASCULINE GENDER AND COUNTER-PROPOSAL THAT THIS
NAME BE ACCEPTED AS BEING OF THE FEMININE GENDER**

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and

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(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)663)

(Letter dated 3rd August 1953)

For the purpose of identification, we state that the first of the present applicants is the ichthyologist referred to by Dr. Reeve M. Bailey in his letter of 1st December 1949 (1953, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 10: 228), where he states that "one of my distinguished colleagues, who is in a purist frame of mind, proposed to revert to the classical feminine for *Notropis*" Rafinesque, 1818.

We emphatically urge that the Plenary Power be not invoked in this case for the following reasons :—

- (1) It is clear to us, and to ichthyologists in general, that the name *Notropis* is derived, by contractions, from *νωτος* (or *νωτον*), back, and *τροπισ*, keel, for Rafinesque in his original description mentioned the keeled back (of a desiccated specimen). (The name of the orthotype, *atherinoides*, does not indicate gender.)
- (2) It is also clear to us, from our study as well as from Dr. Grensted's contribution (16/3) that the gender of *τροπισ* is feminine. We quote Dr. Grensted's final conclusion³: "I can see no reasons why the word should not follow the natural indication of its termination and be feminine."
- (3) The name has recently been used, by at least four authors, as feminine, with the definite statement in two of the works (quoted below) that the proper gender is feminine.
- (4) It would be anomalous to have some generic names ending in *-tropis* regarded as masculine, while other names with this ending are treated, properly, as feminine. Such varied usage would lead to confusion and to a need for consulting the nomenclatorial records.
- (5) No possible confusion can result from spelling the quoted specific names *cornuta*, *rubella*, *volucella*, *zonata*, *bella*, and *maculata*, rather than as *cornutus*, *rubellus*, *volucellus*, *zonatus*, *bellus*, and *maculatus*.
- (6) These considerations seem to us sufficient to render unnecessary the suspension of the rules to justify the obviously crude blunder of authors.

We ask that the name *Notropis* Rafinesque, 1818, be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, as feminine, with *Notropis atherinoides* as the type species, by orthotypy, and that *Notropis atherinoides* Rafinesque, 1818, be placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*. These generic and specific names are now and have long been in exclusive use for the genus and species concerned.

References :

- Hubbs, Carl L., 1951. *Notropis amnis*, a new cyprinid fish of the Mississippi fauna, with two subspecies. *Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich.*, 530 : 1-30, pl. 1, map. 1.
- . The American cyprinid fish *Notropis germanus* Hay interpreted as an intergeneric hybrid. *Amer. Midland Nat.*, 45 (2) : 446-454.
- Hubbs, Carl L., and Kelshaw Bonham, 1951. New cyprinid fishes of the genus *Notropis* from Texas. *Texas J. Sci.* 1951 (1), 91-110, pls. 1-3.
- Hubbs, Clark, 1951. Records from East Texas of three species of fish, *Semotilus atromaculatus*, *Notropis cornuta*, and *Microperca proclearis*. *Texas J. Sci.* 1951 (3) : 490-492.
- Rafinesque, C. S., 1818. *Amer. Mon. Mag. and Crit. Rev.* 1818 : 204.

³See Grensted, 1953, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 10 : 230.